

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /115 W

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O 041825Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2315

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1228

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: ELECTION REPORT NUMBER 5

REF: GUATEMALA 1211

1. TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MLN LEADER HECTOR ANDRADE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER REPORTS AND PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF ELECTION RETURNS FROM GUATEMALA CITY, GIVES US IMPRESSION THAT GOVERNMENT COALITION IS WORRIED THAT IT MAY HAVE LOST THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO OPPOSITIONFRONT CANDIDATE RIOS MONTT. EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME WITHOUT NEW OFFICIAL REPORTS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS THIS MORNING STRENGTHENS THIS IMPRESSION AND LEADS US TO BELIEVE GOVERNMENT COULD BE CONSIDERING METHODS TO FRUSTRATE A RIOS VICTORY.

2. ANDRADE SAID COALITION WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE COUNTERING A RIOS MARGIN OF 50 PER CENT IN CITY, BUT LAMENTED THAT IT WAS "IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL" CITY VOTE (LATEST MUNICIPALITY FIGURES SHOW RIOS WITH 56.3 PER CENT OF GUATEMALA CITY VOTE). ANDRADE AVERRED, NOT VERY CONVINCINGLY, THAT COALITION WAS NOW AHEAD IN NATIONWIDE COUNT, 130,000 TO 110,000; AND ASSERTED THAT WHEN FINAL VOTE WAS TALLIED, IT WOULD SHOW LAUGERUD HAD WON.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, MLN-PID CLAQUE WHICH WAS IN FRONT OF PALACE EARLIER THIS MORNING (REFTEL) MOVED ON TO PLAZA
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CONCORDIA (6TH AVE. AND 14TH ST., ZONE 1) WHERE IT WAS ADDRESSED

BY LAUGERUD. LAUGERUD ASSERTED HE HAD SEEN UNOFFICIAL FIGURES WHICH SHOWED HE HAD WON BUT THAT MUNICIPALITY WAS ATTEMPTING TO FALSIFY ITS FIGURES TO NEGATE HIS VICTORY, ALTHOUGH OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MUST AWAIT GOVERNMENT TALLY AND OFFICIAL DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE CONGRESS. HE ASKED CROWD TO GO BACK TO THEIR HOMES ASSERTING THAT HE WOULD CALL THEM BACK IF HE NEEDED THEM AND THAT, IF NECESSARY, HE WOULD MARCH AT THEIR HEAD TO OBTAIN JUST VICTORY.

4. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, LAUGERUD'S MOVE TO DISPERSE ZACAPA-CHIQUMULA CONTINGENT IS CONSTRUCTIVE STEP TO REMOVE VOLATILE ELEMENT. END COMMENT.
MELOY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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